Names/Faces

Batting Down the Story

Criminal lawyer Melvin Belli says a report that Jack Ruby once conferred with Fidel Castro about the possibility of assassinating President Kennedy is ludicrous. Belli said the man who shot Lee Harvey Oswald "was impossible to work with. No one is his right mind would hire him to do anything." Belli, who once represented Ruby, added: "He was immature in judgment, erratic and emotionally involved. Within five minutes of meeting him, you knew he couldn't carry out any plan.

He was just a fellow trying to scrounge and get by." Furthermore, said Belli, "he worshiped Jack Kennedy." Belli did say, however, Ruby may have been in Cuba six months before the assassination.

—John McKelway